윤미경
Mi-Kyung Yun
13
BRIDE of the WATER GOD

WOW...IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL AND VIBRANT...
...THE BUTTERFLIES THINK THEY'RE REAL FLOWERS.

13 윤미경
BY THE WAY, HABAEK, WHAT ARE YOU DRAWING?
BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD
story and art
Mi-Kyung Yun
translation
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letterin
Studio Cutie & Peter Dong
A HONG JANG.
[HONG JANG: A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN WEARING MAKEUP]

IS THAT...ME?
풋
GIGGLE
YOU'RE MEAN!
YOU NEEDN'T BE SO...
DISMISSIVE OF ME!
팔랑
FLIT
팔랑
FLIT
BUT...BUT
CAN YOU PLEASE
DRAW ME SOMEDAY?
PLEASE, HABAEK?
WELL...I'LL
THINK ABOUT IT.

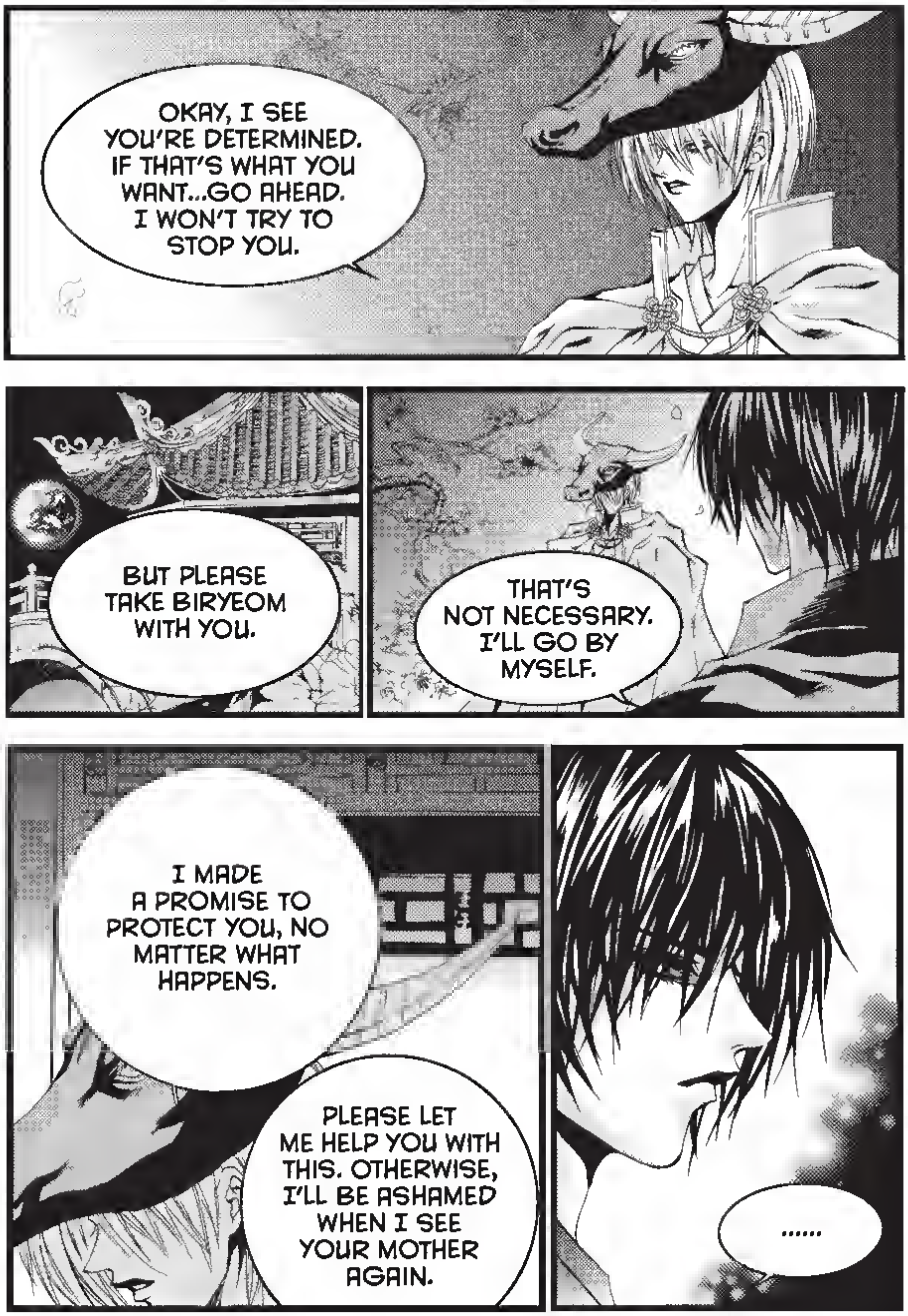
YOU DON'T THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S FALLEN IN LOVE WITH A HUMAN, DO YOU?
!!

IT'S HAPPENED QUITE OFTEN.
SOME GODS ABANDONED THEIR POSITIONS TO LIVE AS MORTALS...AND SOME FOUND WAYS TO GIVE THEIR HUMAN LOVERS ETERNAL LIFE.
.....
IF YOU STAY WITH THIS HUMAN AND CHOOSE TO GO TO THE *BAN-DO* GROVE, I'M AFRAID YOU'LL REGRET IT EVENTUALLY.
ARE YOU *SURE* YOU STILL WANT TO GO THERE?

I'M GOING.
!

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, WHETHER TO GOD OR MORTAL, IT WILL BE LESS PAINFUL THAN BEING SEPARATED FROM HER AGAIN.

IS THAT SO...?
IS THAT WHY YOU WENT WITH THEM BEFORE, GOON-MYUNG? EVEN THOUGH YOU AND YOUR SON WERE POSSIBLY WALKING INTO A TRAP AT THE EMPEROR'S PALACE?


OKAY, I SEE YOU'RE DETERMINED. IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT...GO AHEAD. I WON'T TRY TO STOP YOU.
BUT PLEASE TAKE BIRYEOM WITH YOU.
THAT'S NOT NECESSARY. I'LL GO BY MYSELF.
I MADE A PROMISE TO PROTECT YOU, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.
PLEASE LET ME HELP YOU WITH THIS. OTHERWISE, I'LL BE ASHAMED WHEN I SEE YOUR MOTHER AGAIN.
.....

THIS SHIELD WILL BE SUSTAINED BY SHINNONG'S POWER FOR A WHILE, BUT IT WON'T LAST LONG.
I SHOULD HURRY AND GET SOAH TO A SAFER PLACE.

MUI, BIRYEOM HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
HE SAID WE SHOULD GET READY, SO WE CAN LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
SOAH.
COME HERE.

I'M SORRY I WAS LATE GETTING BACK TO YOU, EVEN THOUGH I PROMISED TO BE QUICK.
AFTER ALL THIS DANGER HAS PASSED, LET'S GO TO YOUR VILLAGE IN THE HUMAN WORLD.
I GUESS I RUINED OUR FIRST NIGHT.
WE GOT MARRIED WITHOUT A *CHIN-YOUNG*. WE SHOULD HAVE A PROPER WEDDING CEREMONY IN YOUR HOMETOWN.
[*CHIN-YOUNG*: A WEDDING CEREMONY AT THE BRIDE'S HOUSE, IN WHICH THE GROOM ACCEPTS THE BRIDE.]

THANK YOU, MUI!
I FEEL SO STRANGE. I'VE TRAVELED SO FAR FROM HOME.
EVEN THOUGH I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO GO BACK THERE TO LIVE, I ACCEPT THAT, SINCE I'M SO HAPPY HERE.
THIS FEELS LIKE SUCH A GREAT DREAM...
MAYBE I'M REALLY DREAMING RIGHT NOW? IF SO, I WISH I WOULD NEVER WAKE UP.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S LIKE I SAID--YOU'RE TRAVELING WITH ME.
MUI ASKED ME TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.
IT'S VERY HARD TO FIND A PLACE WHERE THE EMPEROR'S EYES AND HANDS DON'T REACH, BUT I CAN TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE SAFE... AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE.
!!

WHAT ABOUT MUI? IF HE'S NOT WITH ME, I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
HE HAS OTHER THINGS TO DO, SO HE CAN'T COME WITH US. IF MUI HADN'T ASKED ME PERSONALLY TO DO THIS, I WOULD HAVE GONE WITH HIM INSTEAD...
THEN I'LL GO THERE, TOO.
MUI IS TRYING TO DO SOMETHING DANGEROUS BY HIMSELF, ISN'T HE?
YES, IT'S VERY DANGEROUS WHERE HE'S GOING. THAT'S WHY HE DOESN'T WANT YOU TO BE THERE!
NO! I'M GOING WITH MUI!

DON'T BE SO STUBBORN! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT MUI IS UP TO? HE'S DOING THIS FOR YOU!
FOR YOUR SURVIVAL, HE'S ON A MISSION TO GET THE ONE *BAN-DO* FRUIT THAT SURVIVED THE GROVE FIRE. MURA HAS IT. IT'S GOING TO BE DANGEROUS, EVEN FOR A GOD, BUT HE'S STILL GOING--JUST FOR YOU! DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW? HE WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO GO TO SUCH A DANGEROUS PLACE!
!!
MUI!

WHAT'S GOING ON, SOAH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
MUI! IS IT TRUE?!
IS WHAT BIRYEOM SAYS TRUE?
I DON'T NEED ANY BAN-DO FRUIT, SO PLEASE DON'T PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER. I BEG YOU!

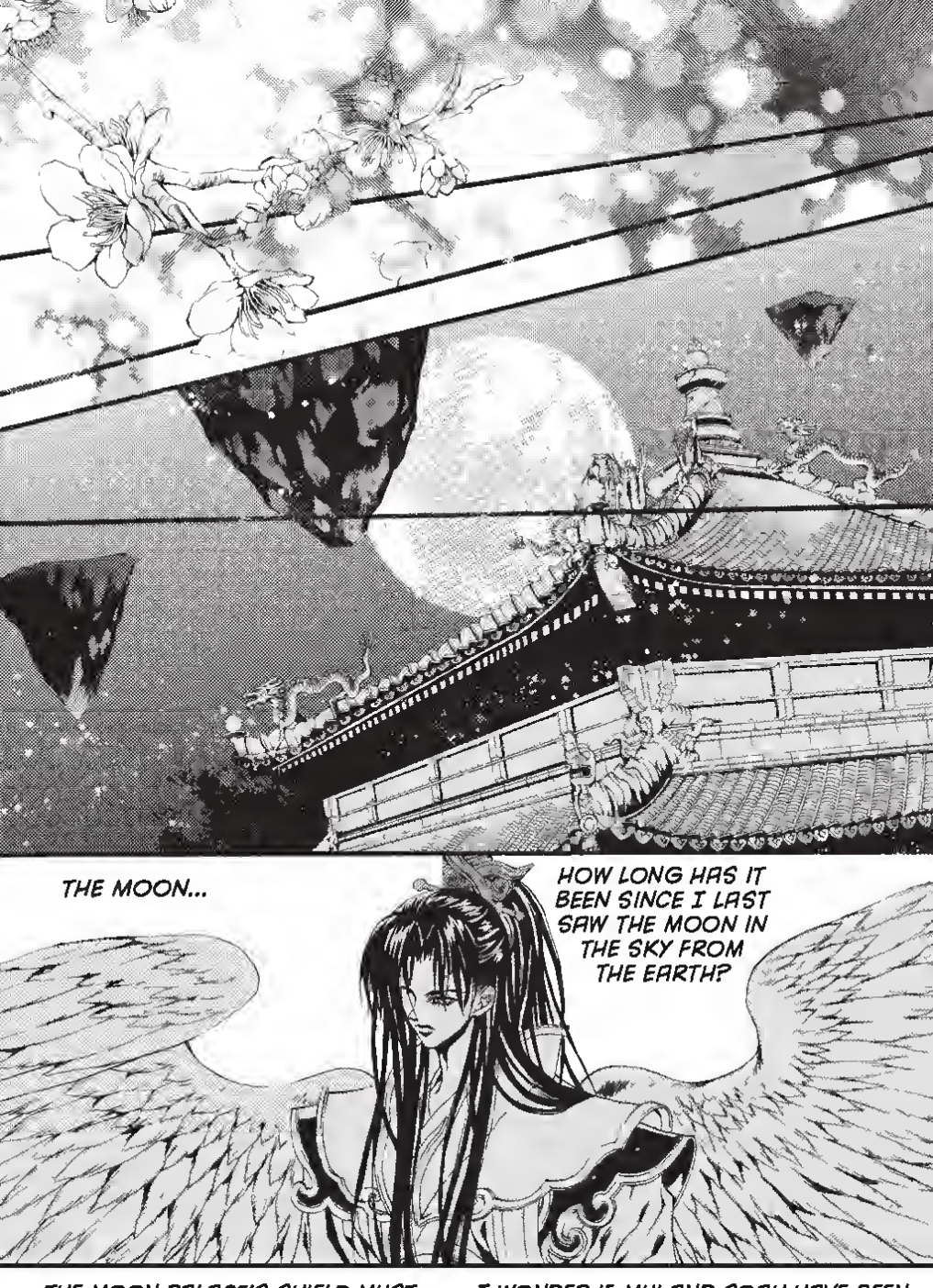
MURA HATES ME! SHE'S NOT GOING TO JUST HAND IT OVER TO YOU!
I DON'T WANT ETERNAL LIFE! PLEASE, DON'T DO ANYTHING DANGEROUS.
SOAH, IT'S NOT FOR YOU.
HUH?!

I'M DOING THIS FOR MYSELF...
...BECAUSE I CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT YOU.
THAT'S WHY I MUST STEAL THE REMAINING *BAN-DO* FRUIT, NO MATTER WHAT.

THEN I'M GOING WITH YOU.
STOP THIS NONSENSE.
NO. I'M GOING WITH YOU, NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY!
휘익
HWSH
!!
MU!!!
LISTEN TO ME! STOP BEING STUBBORN! GO WITH BIRYEOM AND WAIT FOR ME, WHEREVER HE TAKES YOU.
NO! NO MORE WAITING...

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW *HORRIFYING* IT IS TO WAIT AROUND ALL ALONE? YOU PROMISED YOU'D NEVER LEAVE ME ALONE AGAIN!
YOU SAID YOU'D BE BESIDE ME ALWAYS, TO PROTECT ME FOR ALL TIME-- BUT NOW YOU'RE JUST ASKING ME TO WAIT SOME MORE?! YOU ALWAYS TAKE FOREVER TO COME BACK! I WON'T JUST SIT AND WAIT ANYMORE!
WHMP
MUI... PLEASE...

TOT...
SIGH!
HAVE I DONE SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU DISTRUST ME?
I'M VERY SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT ALONE.
OKAY...FINE. YOU WIN.
THANK YOU, MUI.
LET'S GO TOGETHER.


THE MOON...
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I LAST SAW THE MOON IN THE SKY FROM THE EARTH?
THE MOON PALACE'S SHIELD MUST HAVE FALLEN APART BY NOW...
I WONDER IF MUI AND SOAH HAVE BEEN EVACUATED TO A SAFER PLACE?

SEO-WANG-MO-*NIM* IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION NOW. SHE'S BEEN CALLING FOR YOU FROM HER SICKBED.
IF YOU DON'T VISIT HER SOON, YOU'LL MISS YOUR CHANCE TO SAY GOODBYE TO HER...
HOW CAN I TRUST YOU?
WANG-MO-*NIM* GAVE THIS TO ME TO SHOW YOU. HERE. BELIEVE ME NOW?
AS SOON AS I SAW IT, I KNEW THAT IT WAS ALL A LIE.
WANG-MO WOULD NEVER LET SOMEONE ELSE TAKE IT.

HOWEVER... EVEN THOUGH I KNEW IT WAS A LIE, I WANTED TO BE CAPTURED.
I THINK SHINNONG HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTED WITH ME, BUT...
저벅 K.TOK
저벅 K.TOK
PLEASE WAIT HERE. THE EMPEROR WILL ARRIVE MOMENTARILY.
!!

YANG-
HOI...
I JUST WANTED TO SEE HER ONE MORE TIME... THAT'S WHY...

YANG-HOI...
!!
MOK-GONG?

CHOON-JUNG-GI-JA-AN
–BY EO-HYUN-KI
REMEMBER, ALWAYS, OUR VOWS OF LOVE.
THEY SHALL REMAIN FOREVER UNBROKEN.
IT'S EASY TO DISLIKE ANY JOURNEY IN A LONG WINTER,
BUT MY HOPE IS TO SEE YOU
WHEN, ALAS, THE ROUND MOON HAS CLIMBED INTO THE HEAVENS.
AS WE ARE FAR APART,
THIS IS ALL I CAN GIVE YOU.
YOU ARE SO FAR AWAY.
ALL I CAN GIVE TO YOU IS
THIS PIECE OF POETRY, STAINED WITH MY BRIGHT TEARS...

YANG-HOI!
?
YOU...WHY ARE YOU HERE?!

YANG-HOI...
NO...
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE.
YOU SHOULD BE SAFE AT THE MOON PALACE. THAT'S WHERE YOU SHOULD BE.

SHOVE
REALLY-- WHY ARE YOU HERE?
YANG-HOI...
GO BACK! RIGHT NOW! RETURN TO THE MOON, WHERE YOU SHOULD BE.
HWIP

WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHAT ABOUT HABAEK?
I SENT HIM THERE BECAUSE I TRUSTED YOU.
IF YOU'RE HERE, HUNDREDS OF YEARS COULD HAVE PASSED IN VAIN.
I KNOW, BUT...
...I JUST WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE NOW.

NO. IF YOU'RE HERE, YOU'LL DIE.
WSH
THE EMPEROR WILL KILL YOU!
YANG-HOI.

I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN ALONE...AND THINGS HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT...
I'M SORRY.
LET'S BE TOGETHER NOW.

LIVE TOGETHER,
DIE TOGETHER...

I'VE ALLOWED DONG-WANG-GONG AND SEO-WANG-MO TO REUNITE, AS YOU WISHED, YOUR HIGHNESS.
LIVE TOGETHER...
DIE TOGETHER...
GOOD JOB, CHEON-HOO.
I SHOWED HIM THE JADE TRINKET, AND HE FOLLOWED ME WITH COMPLETE TRUST. I WAS SURPRISED AT HOW EASY IT WAS TO DECEIVE HIM!
HE KNEW YOU WERE LYING TO HIM.
WHAT? THEN WHY DID HE TRAVEL ALL THAT WAY WITH ME?

HE PROBABLY NEEDED AN EXCUSE.
AN EXCUSE TO BETRAY SHINNONG AND SEE WANG-MO AGAIN.
I SIMPLY GAVE HIM A LITTLE EXCUSE TO DO SO.
THOSE WHO ARE IN LOVE ARE ALL THE SAME FOOLS.

THEY ALWAYS CHOOSE THE SAME PATH, EVEN THOUGH THEY KNOW WHAT IT WILL LEAD THEM TO.
IT'S A BRUTAL PATH OF DESTRUCTION.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH DONG-WANG-GONG?
HEH HEH!
I SHOULD LET THEM ENJOY THEIR REUNION.
IT WILL BE A SHORT ONE.

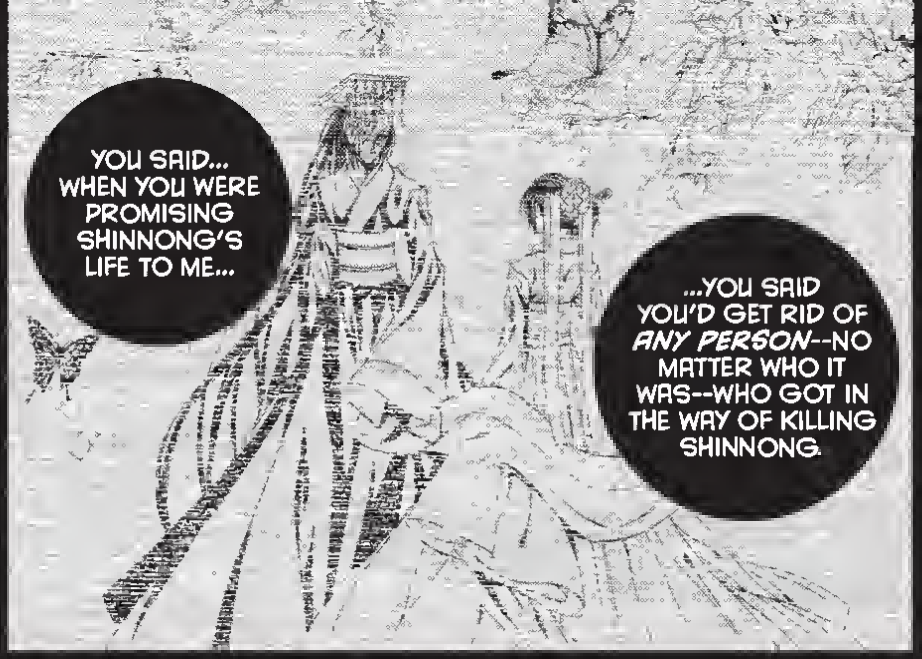
YOUR MAJESTY?
SEO-WANG-MO-*NIM* IS REQUESTING TO SEE YOU.

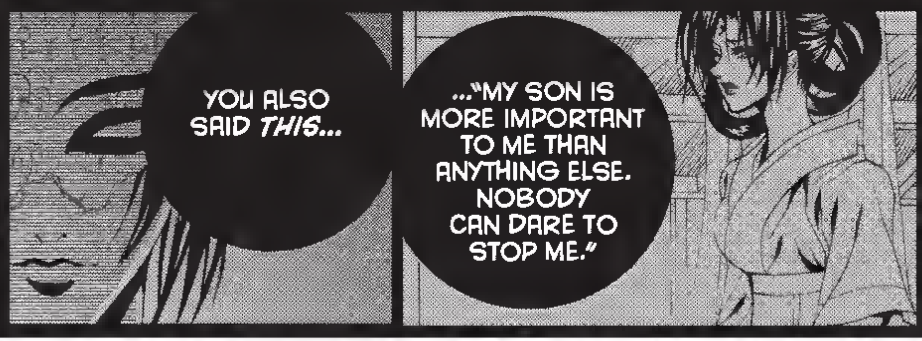
LET HER IN.
FWGH

COME ON IN, WANG-MO. HAPPY? DID YOU ENJOY YOUR REUNION WITH YOUR HUSBAND?

WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU DOING?! HAVE YOU TAKEN DONG-WANG-GONG AS A HOSTAGE TO THREATEN ME, BECAUSE YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN TRUST ME?
OH, MY... HOSTAGE? I JUST WANTED YOU TWO TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
BUT...IT'S TRUE THAT I CAN'T TRUST ALL THE THINGS THAT YOU SAY.
?
!!

I WILL DEFINITELY DELIVER SHINNONG TO YOU, AS I PROMISED.
WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE YOU BELIEVE WHAT I SAY?
DO YOU REMEMBER EVERYTHING YOU PROMISED ME BEFORE?

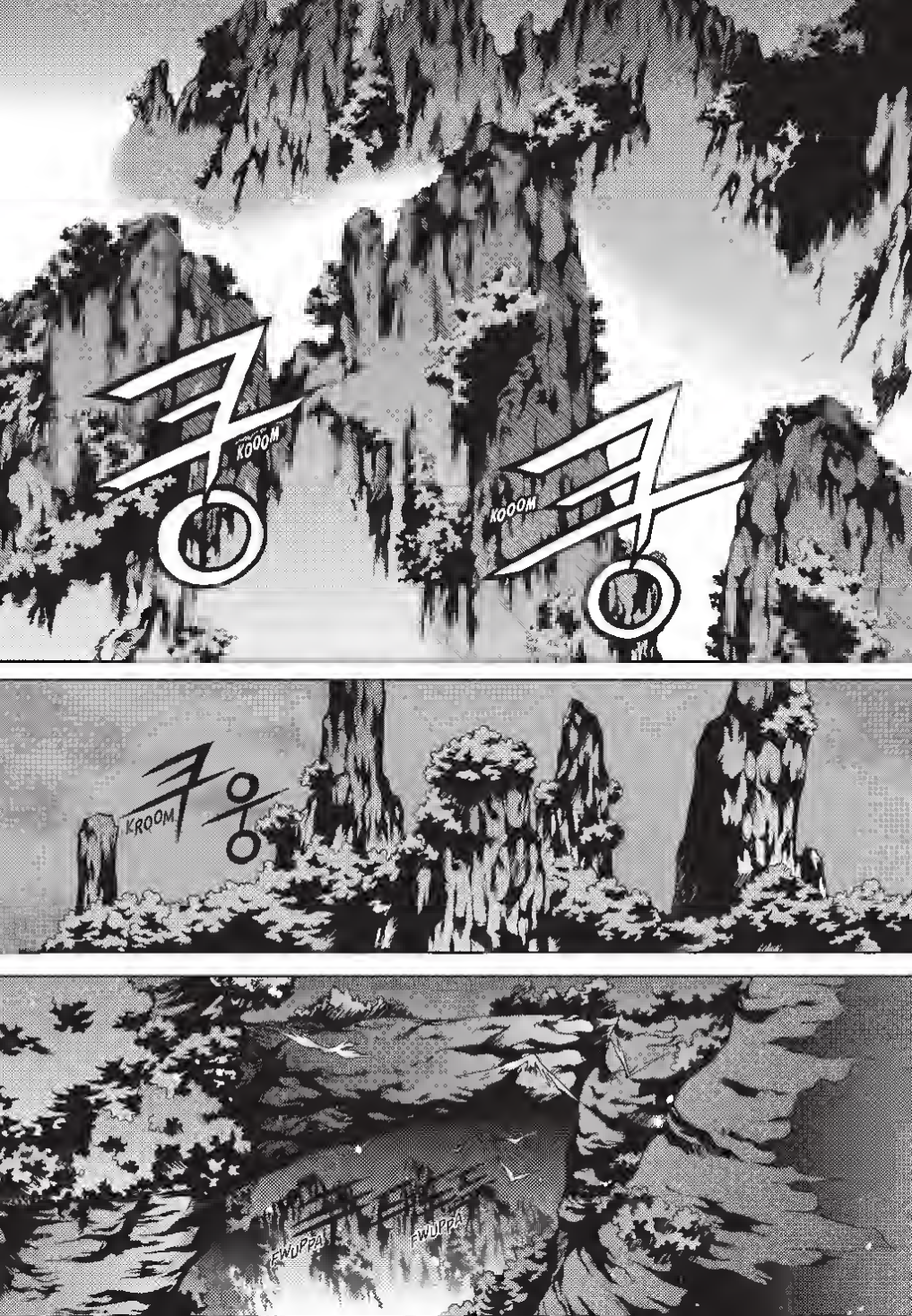

YOU SAID... WHEN YOU WERE PROMISING SHINNONG'S LIFE TO ME...
...YOU SAID YOU'D GET RID OF *ANY PERSON*--NO MATTER WHO IT WAS--WHO GOT IN THE WAY OF KILLING SHINNONG.


YOU ALSO SAID *THIS*...
..."MY SON IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN ANYTHING ELSE. NOBODY CAN DARE TO STOP ME."

I REMEMBER THAT CLEARLY.

I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT--REALLY, I AM--BUT I CAN'T TRUST MERE PRATTLE WITHOUT PRACTICE.
PLEASE BACK YOUR WORDS WITH SOME PROOF OF YOUR ALLEGIANCE TO ME.

PLEASE, KILL YOUR HUSBAND.
IF YOU DO, I'LL CERTAINLY TRUST YOU.


KOOOM
KOOOM
KROOM
WUPPA
WUPPA

HWOOOO
IT WAS TRICKY TO FIND, BECAUSE IT KEEPS MOVING...
...BUT THAT'S *CHEONG-YO MOUNTAIN*...WHERE MURA IS.
HWOOOO
CHEONG-YO... MOUNTAIN...

WELL, HERE HE COMES.
WELCOME, HABAEK. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
I KNEW YOU WOULD COME TO SEE ME...
...BECAUSE I HAVE THE BAN-DO FRUIT THAT YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR LITTLE BRIDE IMMORTAL.

MURA--
I'VE TOLD YOU SO MANY TIMES TO THROW IN THE TOWEL, BUT YOU'RE STILL NOT GIVING UP ON LOVE.
YOU'LL REALIZE LATER HOW USELESS LOVE IS.
GIL-SANG-CHEON-NYEO-*NIM*, YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON I WANT TO HEAR SOMETHING LIKE THAT FROM.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO FELL IN LOVE WITH A HUMAN, BROKE THE RULES, AND TURNED HIM INTO A GOD.
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.

I'M THE ONE WHO *KILLED HIM*, TOO.

BY THE WAY... HOW DARE A HUMAN SET FOOT ON CHEONG-YO MOUNTAIN?
I'M SICK OF HUMANS.
I DON'T LIKE HAVING TO FOLLOW OUR CURRENT EMPEROR, BUT I DO LIKE THAT HE HATES HUMANS, TOO.
THEY'RE LIKE USELESS, HOPELESS INSECTS...
APPARENTLY, THE RUMOR'S TRUE. THE WATER GOD HAS FALLEN DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH THE HUMAN GIRL. OTHERWISE, HE WOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT HER TO THIS DANGEROUS MOUNTAIN. I CAN SEE WHY YOU'RE SO ANXIOUS ABOUT IT.

BUT HE'S AS FOOLISH AS YOU ARE. ONLY ONE THING CAN COME OF LOVE BETWEEN A GOD AND A HUMAN...
OKAY. IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, I COULD SHOW YOU.
THEN WE COULD SHOW *HER* WHAT BEFALLS AN IMPUDENT HUMAN WHO'S IN LOVE WITH A GOD.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO TO HER OR ANYONE ELSE...
...BUT DON'T TOUCH HABAEK. LEAVE HIM TO ME.

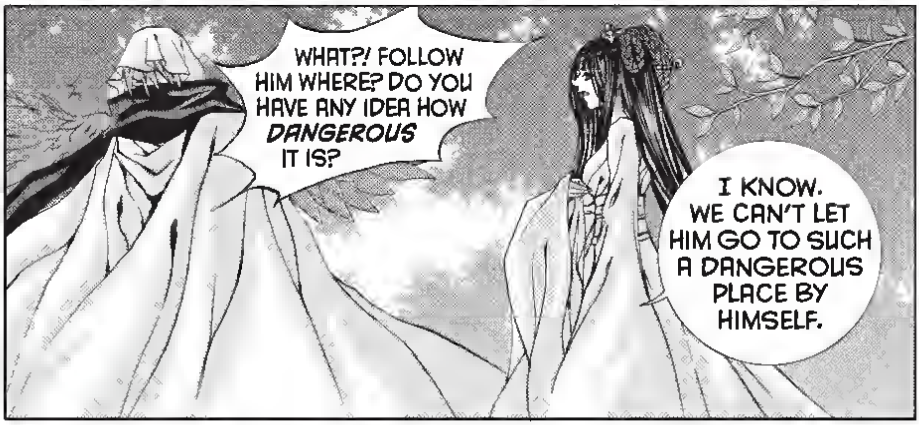
YOU REALLY DO CARE ABOUT A GUY WHO WILL NEVER LIKE YOU BACK, DON'T YOU?
DON'T WORRY. I'LL STAY AWAY FROM THE MAN OF YOUR DREAMS.
FROM HERE ON, I'M GOING ALONE.
BIRYEOM, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF SOAH.
WHY? NO! I WANT TO GO WITH YOU.

DON'T BE STUBBORN. NOT NOW. LISTEN-- THIS IS NOT SUGUK. THIS IS NOT THE MOON PALACE...
GODS ARE STRONGEST ON THEIR HOME TERRITORIES.
THIS IS CHEONG-YO MOUNTAIN, WHERE MURA WAS BORN AND RAISED. SHE'S STRONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE HERE. I BROUGHT YOU HERE THINKING I COULD PROTECT YOU. I DON'T PLAN TO PUT YOU IN BIGGER DANGER.
I UNDERSTAND. I'LL WAIT HERE.

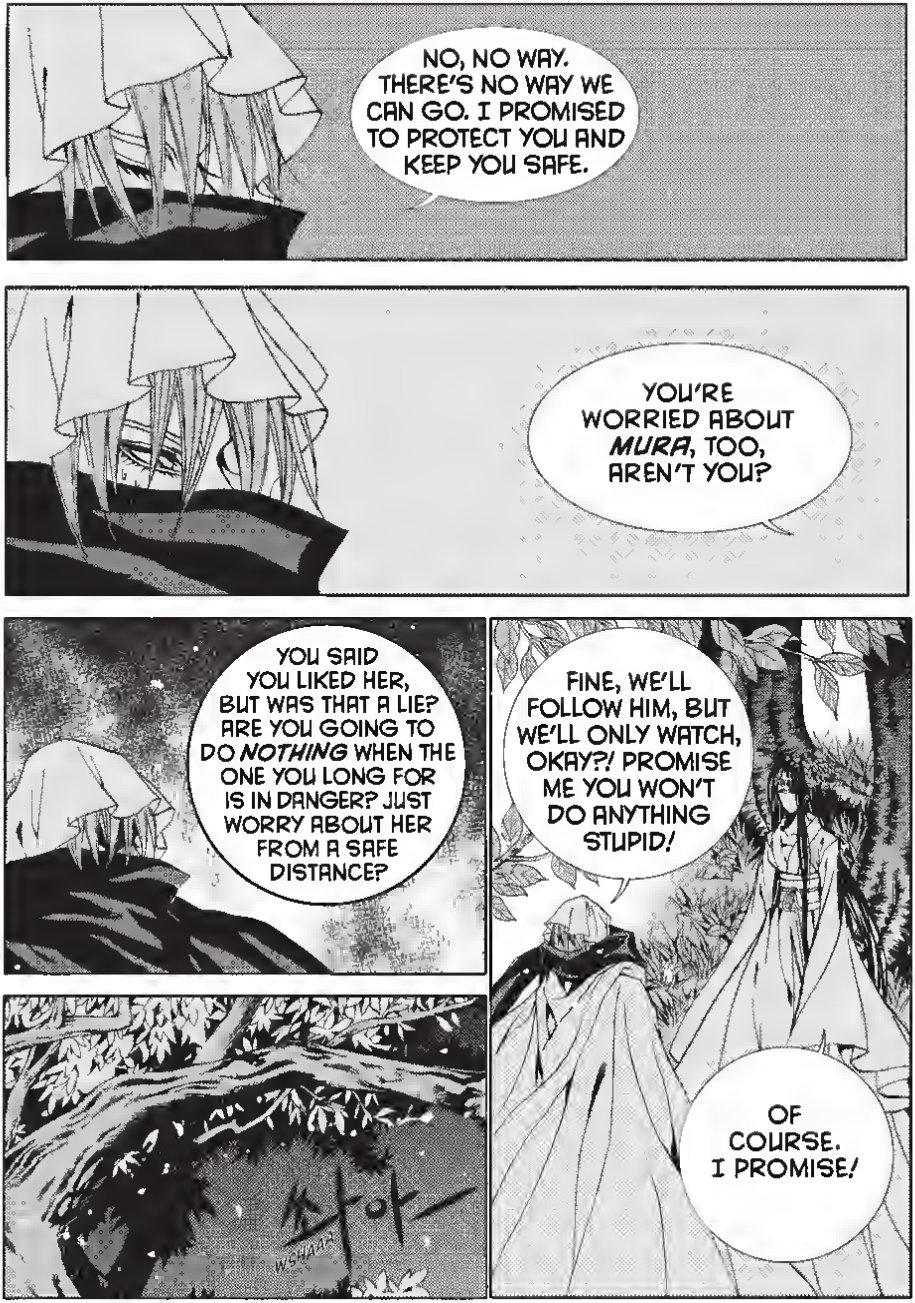
BUT PLEASE PROMISE ME ONE THING.
PROMISE YOU WON'T MAKE ME WAIT TOO LONG FOR YOU THIS TIME.

SURE. I PROMISE. AND TAKE THIS.
THIS IS A SPECIAL BLACK MARBLE CALLED *HYUN-JU*. IT WILL PROTECT YOU WHILE I'M AWAY. KEEP IT CLOSE TO YOU, NO MATTER WHAT!
WHAT IS IT?
YES, I WILL. I'LL KEEP IT WITH ME AT ALL TIMES.
WOOOO

NOW, SHALL WE GO SOMEWHERE SAFE...?
LET'S FOLLOW MUI.
EXACTLY, LET'S FOLLOW M--


WHAT?! FOLLOW HIM WHERE? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW *DANGEROUS* IT IS?
I KNOW. WE CAN'T LET HIM GO TO SUCH A DANGEROUS PLACE BY HIMSELF.

UGH! I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG. YOU SOUNDED SO OBEDIENT, SO UNLIKE YOURSELF.


NO, NO WAY. THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN GO. I PROMISED TO PROTECT YOU AND KEEP YOU SAFE.
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT *MURA*, TOO, AREN'T YOU?
YOU SAID YOU LIKED HER, BUT WAS THAT A LIE? ARE YOU GOING TO DO *NOTHING* WHEN THE ONE YOU LONG FOR IS IN DANGER? JUST WORRY ABOUT HER FROM A SAFE DISTANCE?
FINE, WE'LL FOLLOW HIM, BUT WE'LL ONLY WATCH, OKAY?! PROMISE ME YOU WON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID!
OF COURSE. I PROMISE!
WSHAAA

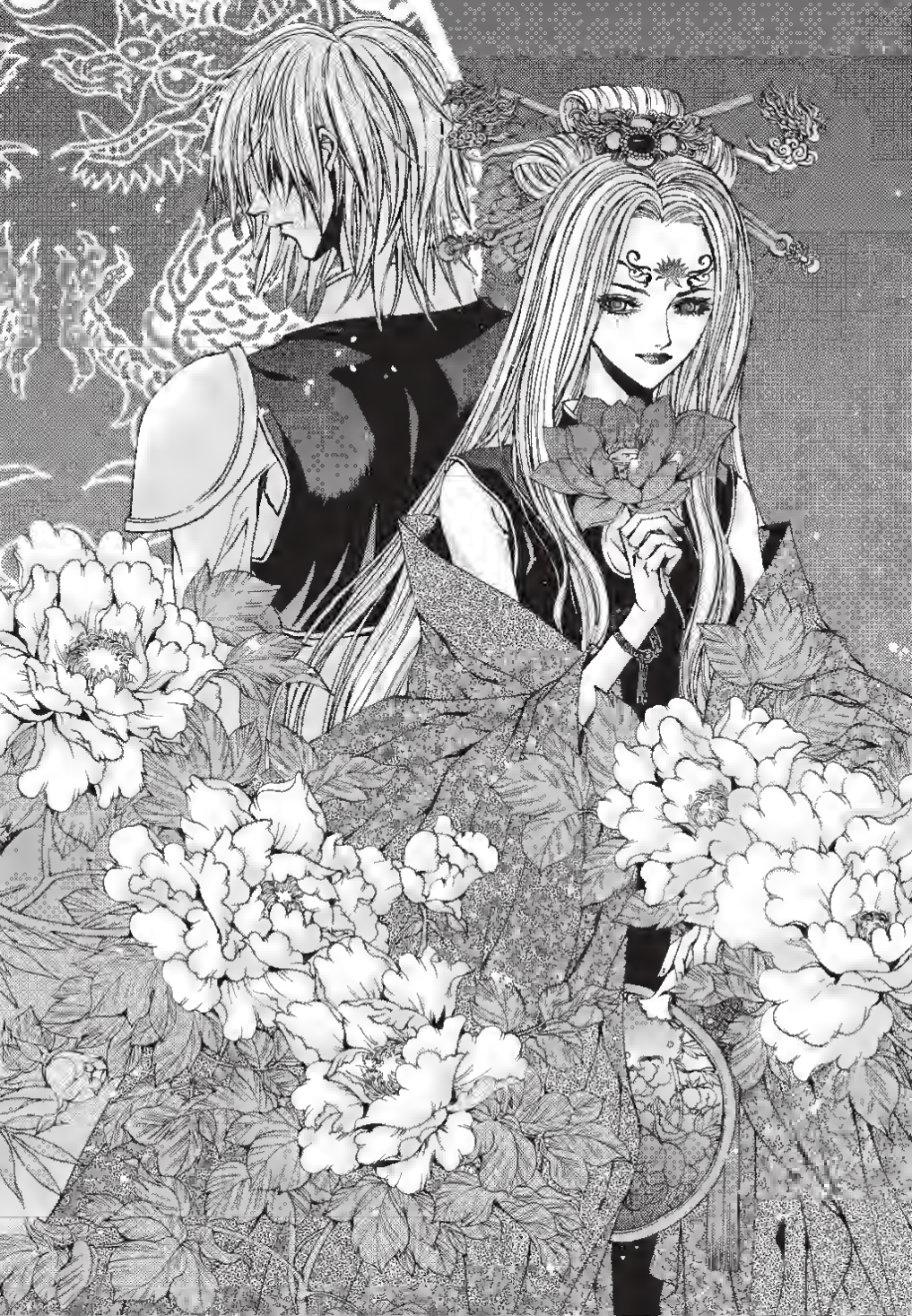
WHO'S THERE?!

바스락
RUSTLE
HMPF! ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?! STOP RIGHT THERE!!
SHAA
EWSHAA

BIRYEOM?
THAT'S...
I RECOGNIZE HER FROM BEHIND...
MURA!!
FWSH
DAMN! A MAGIC TALISMAN TRAP!

SOAH'S IN DANGER!!
BIRYEOM?!
WHERE ARE YOU?
I SHOULD HAVE STOOD STILL AND WAITED.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? I THINK I'M LOST.

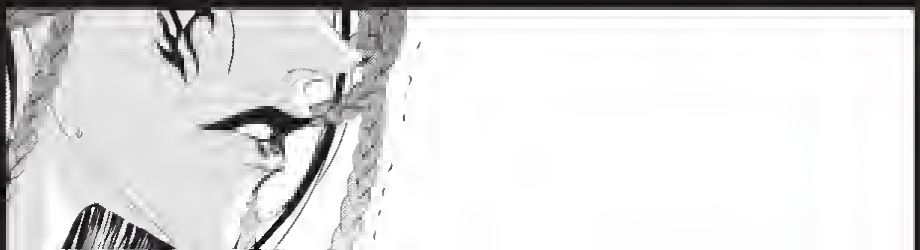
I'M FEELING... STRANGE...
WOOZE
WHY DO I FEEL SO DIZZY?
I SHOULD... FOCUS... MUST STAY AWAKE...
털썩
THUMP
바스락
KRITCH



HWOOOO
HABAEK, WHAT DOES MURA MEAN TO YOU?
IS SHE REALLY NOTHING TO YOU AT ALL?

SHE'S LIKE... A SISTER TO ME. THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT TO LOSE HER.
COULDN'T YOU SEE THAT SHE WAS GETTING TO THIS POINT?
YOU'RE ALL SHE LIVES FOR!
AND DO YOU REMEMBER THE LAST WORDS YOU SAID TO HER?

THERE WON'T BE A SECOND WARNING. DON'T MAKE ME HATE YOU. I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU, MURA.



THOSE WERE THE LAST WORDS I SAID TO HER...
MURA...
HWOOOO
WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT YOU, MURA?

WSHH
A HUMAN ON CHEONG-YO MOUNTAIN? WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
FWISH

SPSH
PLOOSH
!!!
GRRRR

WHOA... GUARDED BY A DRAGON KING...
THIS WOMAN IS SURELY HUMAN...SO, WHAT'S GOING ON?

I DON'T KNOW WHOSE HYUN-JU MARBLE THAT IS, BUT I CAN TELL THIS LADY IS IMPORTANT TO THE ONE WHO GAVE IT TO HER.
THEY MUST THINK SHE'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN THEIR OWN LIFE, RIGHT?

I'LL FIND OUT WHEN YOU WAKE UP, LADY.

I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO FIGHT WITH THAT DRAGON KING.

ONCE YOU'RE AWAKE, I'LL FIGURE OUT WHO THE OWNER OF THE *HYUN-JU* IS.

I WILL LEAVE THE WATER GOD UP TO YOU, AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE HUMAN GIRL.
ARE YOU SURE I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT TO HER?
...DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

OH, RIGHT-- HAVE YOU SEEN YI-RANG-SHIN TODAY?
HE MAY HAVE GONE FOR A WALK OR SOMETHING. DO YOU WANT ME TO GET THE MAIDS TO GO OUT AND FIND HIM?
NO, NOT YET.
NO, THAT'S OKAY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I THINK HE'S CLOSE BY.

ARE YOU WAKING UP?
WHO...WHO ARE YOU?!

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO ASK YOU.
I'M YANG-JEON, ALSO KNOWN AS YI-RANG-SHIN. WHAT BRINGS A HUMAN TO OUR MOUNTAIN?
!!

AND WHO GAVE YOU THAT BLACK MARBLE?
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING A HUMAN'S SUPPOSED TO POSSESS.
I SHOULDN'T MENTION MUI'S NAME TO A RANDOM STRANGER.

THIS IS...FROM BIRYEOM.
BIRYEOM?
BIRYEOM, THE WIND GOD?
A *HYUN-JU* MARBLE CHANNELS THE FUNDAMENTAL POWERS OF THE GOD WHO OWNS IT. THAT IS TO SAY, IT BEATS ALONG WITH HIS OR HER HEART.
IF HE GAVE THAT TO YOU, BIRYEOM IS APPARENTLY IN LOVE WITH YOU.
BUT LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE. YOU'D BETTER STOP SEEING BIRYEOM, UNLESS YOU WANT THINGS TO END VERY BADLY.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE ABOUT THAT? NO ONE REALLY KNOWS IF THEIR FUTURE HOLDS A HAPPY ENDING OR AN UNHAPPY ONE!
BECAUSE IT'S HAPPENED BEFORE.
THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE?
IT WASN'T JUST NAKBIN AND ME...
HUMANS HAVE LOVED GODS BEFORE, JUST LIKE YOU'RE IN LOVE NOW.

WHAT HAPPENED TO... TO THE PERSON WHO LOVED A GOD?
I WANT TO MEET THAT PERSON. SOMEONE WHO LOVED A GOD LIKE I DO.
YOU CAN'T MEET HIM, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE WONDERING...
I KNOW OF A GODDESS WHO WAS BLINDLY IN LOVE WITH A HUMAN. SHE TURNED HIM INTO A GOD...
...BECAUSE OF HER DESIRE TO BE WITH HIM FOREVER.
SO...WHERE IS HE NOW?

HE WENT INSANE AND DIED.
WELL, TECHNICALLY, HE WAS KILLED BY THE GODDESS WHO LOVED HIM.

BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
KILLED?
KILLED BY THE GODDESS WHO LOVED HIM? WHY?!
FWUP
FWUPPA
!!

휘이이이
FWOOOSH
?!
LOOKS LIKE MOTHER CAME TO FIND ME.
THAT BIRD IS HIS MOTHER?

FWUP
FWUPPA
MOTHER.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WAY OUT HERE?
I WAS LOOKING AROUND THE FOREST WITH MY DOG, HYO-CHEON.
!!

...?!
AH, YOU'VE SAVED ME SOME TROUBLE...
...HAVEN'T YOU?

YANK
EYAAH!!
!!
YOU MUST BE SOAH, THE HUMAN GIRL.

HOW DOES SHE KNOW MY NAME? IS SHE A FRIEND OF MUI'S?
I CAN FEEL HOW MUCH SHE ALREADY HATES ME...
NO! IF I GET CAUGHT BY MURA NOW, IT'LL BE A HUGE BURDEN ON MUI.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT SHOULD I DO?

MUI!
FWSHAAA

I CAN'T STOP WORRYING.
HAVING HER WITH ME, WHERE I COULD SEE HER, WOULD HAVE MADE ME FEEL A LITTLE BETTER ABOUT THIS SITUATION.
NO, I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT HER HERE FROM THE START.
IF I HADN'T ACCEPTED A HUMAN BRIDE...
...I COULD HAVE AVOIDED THIS KIND OF DANGER AND LIVED IN PEACE.
UGH! DROP IT. IT'S TOO LATE TO REGRET ANY OF THIS NOW.

I'VE ALREADY MET HER.
I'VE ALREADY FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HER.
I PROMISED TO PROTECT HER.

THAT'S WHY
I CAME HERE,
MURA.

HABAEK. IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT?
THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THE WAY HERE, THOUGH I KNOW YOU DIDN'T JOURNEY HERE JUST TO SEE ME.
I WASN'T SURE YOU WOULD COME, BUT APPARENTLY THE *BAN-DO* FRUIT IS SO IMPORTANT, YOU HAD TO MAKE THE TRIP.

HABAEK, LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION.
PLEASE THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU ANSWER. WHO KNOWS...IF THE ANSWER IS GOOD, MAYBE I'LL HAND WHAT I HAVE OVER TO YOU FOR FREE.
LET'S PLAY "WHAT IF"... WHAT IF YOU'D NEVER MET NAKBIN...IF SOAH HAD NEVER BEEN SENT TO SUGUK...WOULD THERE BE A CHANCE THAT YOU'D BE IN LOVE WITH ME NOW?
NO.

HA! YOU SAID NO WITHOUT EVEN PRETENDING TO THINK.
SO TYPICAL OF YOU, HABAEK.
YOU NEVER SUGARCOAT YOUR WORDS TO PLEASE OTHERS.
THAT'S WHY I LIKED YOU.
WHEN EVERYONE POINTED THEIR FINGERS AT ME AND CALLED ME A WITCH, YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO CALLED ME A GODDESS.
I VALUED YOUR WORDS MORE THAN ANYTHING ANYONE HAS EVER SAID TO ME, BECAUSE WHAT YOU SAY IS ALWAYS TRUTHFUL AND FROM YOUR HEART.

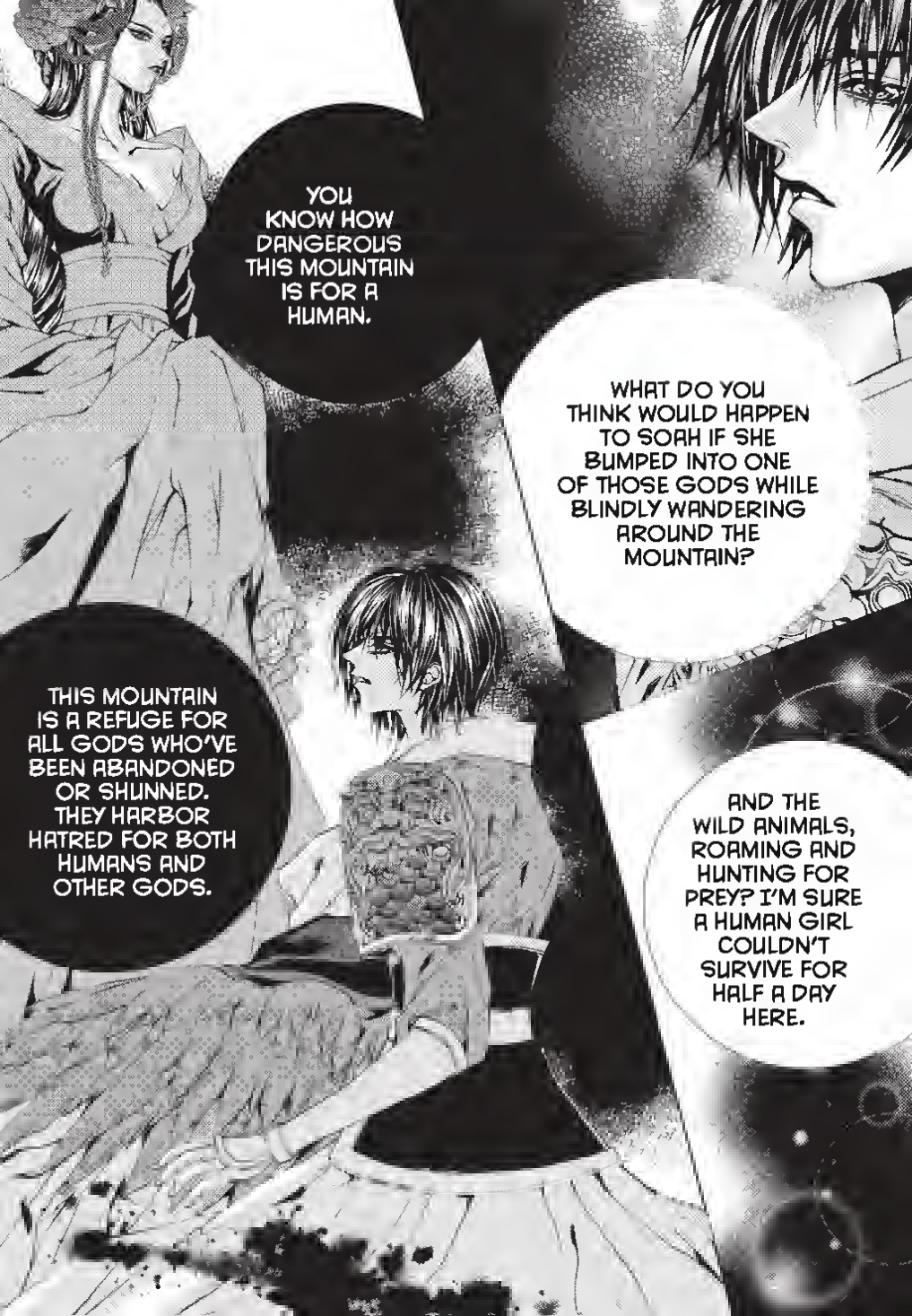
IF YOU WANT THE *BAN-DO* FRUIT, TAKE IT AFTER YOU KILL ME, HABAEK.

쾅
NO, THAT'LL NEVER HAPPEN, MURA.
LIAR.
DID YOU THINK ABOUT IT WHEN YOU WERE ON YOUR WAY OVER HERE?
쏴아아아
FWOOO
DO YOU HAVE A PLAN? OR ARE YOU SO WEAK MINDED YOU DON'T HAVE ONE?

I WANTED TO GET BACK AT YOU, SO I SOLD INFORMATION ABOUT THE BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD.
DOESN'T THAT GIVE YOU REASON ENOUGH TO KILL ME?
HOW ABOUT THIS, THEN? CAN YOU FORGIVE ME AFTER FINDING OUT THAT I'M THE ONE WHO LIED TO NAKBIN AND ENCOURAGED HER TO HATE YOU?
AND IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, HOW ABOUT THIS OVER HERE?

BIRYEOM?!
BIRYEOM?! WAKE UP! WHAT HAPPENED?!
DON'T WORRY. HE'S STILL ALIVE.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU FORGOT SOMETHING. DO YOU WANT ME TO REMIND YOU?

IF YOU AND BIRYEOM ARE HERE, WHERE COULD YOUR LOVELY BRIDE BE NOW?
!!


YOU KNOW HOW DANGEROUS THIS MOUNTAIN IS FOR A HUMAN.
WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN TO SOAH IF SHE BUMPED INTO ONE OF THOSE GODS WHILE BLINDLY WANDERING AROUND THE MOUNTAIN?
THIS MOUNTAIN IS A REFUGE FOR ALL GODS WHO'VE BEEN ABANDONED OR SHUNNED. THEY HARBOR HATRED FOR BOTH HUMANS AND OTHER GODS.
AND THE WILD ANIMALS, ROAMING AND HUNTING FOR PREY? I'M SURE A HUMAN GIRL COULDN'T SURVIVE FOR HALF A DAY HERE.

IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HER, HURRY UP AND KILL ME, AND THEN GO FIND HER.
IT ALL STARTED WITH MY OBSESSION WITH YOU, SO I WANT YOUR HANDS TO END IT ALL...
...BECAUSE I CAN'T STOP MYSELF ANYMORE.

I WANT TO MAKE YOU REMEMBER ME FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. THE ONE YOU KILLED...
IF YOU FORGIVE ME AGAIN AND LET ME GO, I'LL PLAN ANOTHER SURPRISE. IF THAT'S THE CASE, I MAY REALLY END UP KILLING SOAH.
SO GO AHEAD AND KILL *ME*, HABAEK--

푸욱
SHUKK
WHY...?

BIRYEOM...? WHY DID YOU...
不昌
FWMMP

!!
MURA!

HWSH
!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BIRYEOM?!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? DID YOU TURN TO THE EMPEROR'S SIDE?! DID YOU?!
TAKE SOAH AND LEAVE! NOW, HABAEK!

YOU CAME HERE FOR THE *BAN-DO* FRUIT.
IT'S HIDDEN DEEP IN MURA'S PALACE. NOW NO ONE WILL STOP YOU. FIND IT AND LEAVE--AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I WAS HELPING YOU UP TO THIS POINT BECAUSE MURA ASKED ME TO, AS A SPECIAL FAVOR.
NOW MURA'S DEAD, SO ANY PROMISES I MADE TO HER CAN BE FORGOTTEN.
AND YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE SAD OVER HER DEATH.

BIRYEOM, DID YOU... LOVE MURA?
I DON'T WANT TO LOOK AT YOU ANYMORE. GET OUT OF MY SIGHT. RIGHT NOW.

I KICKED HIM OUT. I MADE THE ONE YOU LOVE LEAVE. ARE YOU MAD AT ME, MURA?
FINISH

I CAN BE FREE FROM YOU NOW. FINALLY...
I WAS GROWING TIRED...
I WISH I COULD'VE DONE THIS EARLIER.
I FEEL SO HAPPY NOW.

...YOU'RE...SAYING THAT...YOU'RE HAPPY...? WHY IS...YOUR FACE SO SAD?
WHY...A SAD FACE...? IF YOU'RE HAPPY... SMILE...
MURA...

BIRYEOM, WHY DO YOU COVER YOUR FACE ALL THE TIME?
NO, I CAN'T. IT'S A RULE I HAVE TO FOLLOW AS A WIND GOD.
I CAN'T SHOW MY FACE TO ANYONE EXCEPT FOR THOSE I KILL.
DO YOU HAVE A SUPER UGLY FACE UNDER THAT SCARF OR WHAT? IT LOOKS VERY UNCOMFORTABLE. CAN YOU TAKE IT OFF?
I REMEMBER WHEN I ASKED YOU TO BEFORE. HOW ABOUT NOW?
I COULDN'T TAKE THIS OFF FOR YOU THEN...

움찔
FLINCH
WHAT...? I THOUGHT...THERE WOULD BE...SOME KIND OF HORRIBLE SECRET...
스륵
FLIFF
...BUT IT'S SUCH A WASTE...TO COVER THIS HANDSOME FACE.

THANK YOU... FOR GRANTING ME...THAT LAST FAVOR...
스륵
FMMP
툭
PLIP
투둑
PLIP

WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MURA?!
IT'S JUST LIKE I SAID...I NEED YOU TO KILL ME FOR HABAEK.
NO WAY. DO YOU REALLY THINK I COULD DO THAT?

I'LL ASK HABAEK TO DO IT, BUT I KNOW HE CAN'T.
SO IT NEEDS TO BE YOU. THIS WILL BE THE LAST FAVOR I ASK YOU TO DO FOR ME. IF YOU REALLY LOVE ME, PLEASE STOP ME.
DON'T WORRY, MURA.
I WON'T LET YOU DIE ALONE.
WHP
I'LL BE BESIDE YOU...
SPITCH

WE'LL BE TOGETHER... FOREVER...

WHY...?
WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?
WHY DID IT HAVE TO END LIKE THIS?
FWWOOOSHH

THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED.
RMMB
RMMB
RMMB
!!
OH, NO!
WOOSH
KRROOOM
CHEONG-YO MOUNTAIN IS FALLING APART BECAUSE MURA'S GONE. I NEED TO HURRY UP AND FIND SOAH.

휘이이잉
HWOOOSH
PLEASE BE SAFE, SOAH...
THAT'S IT! I FEEL THE POWER OF MY HYUN-JU... THERE!
SOAH!

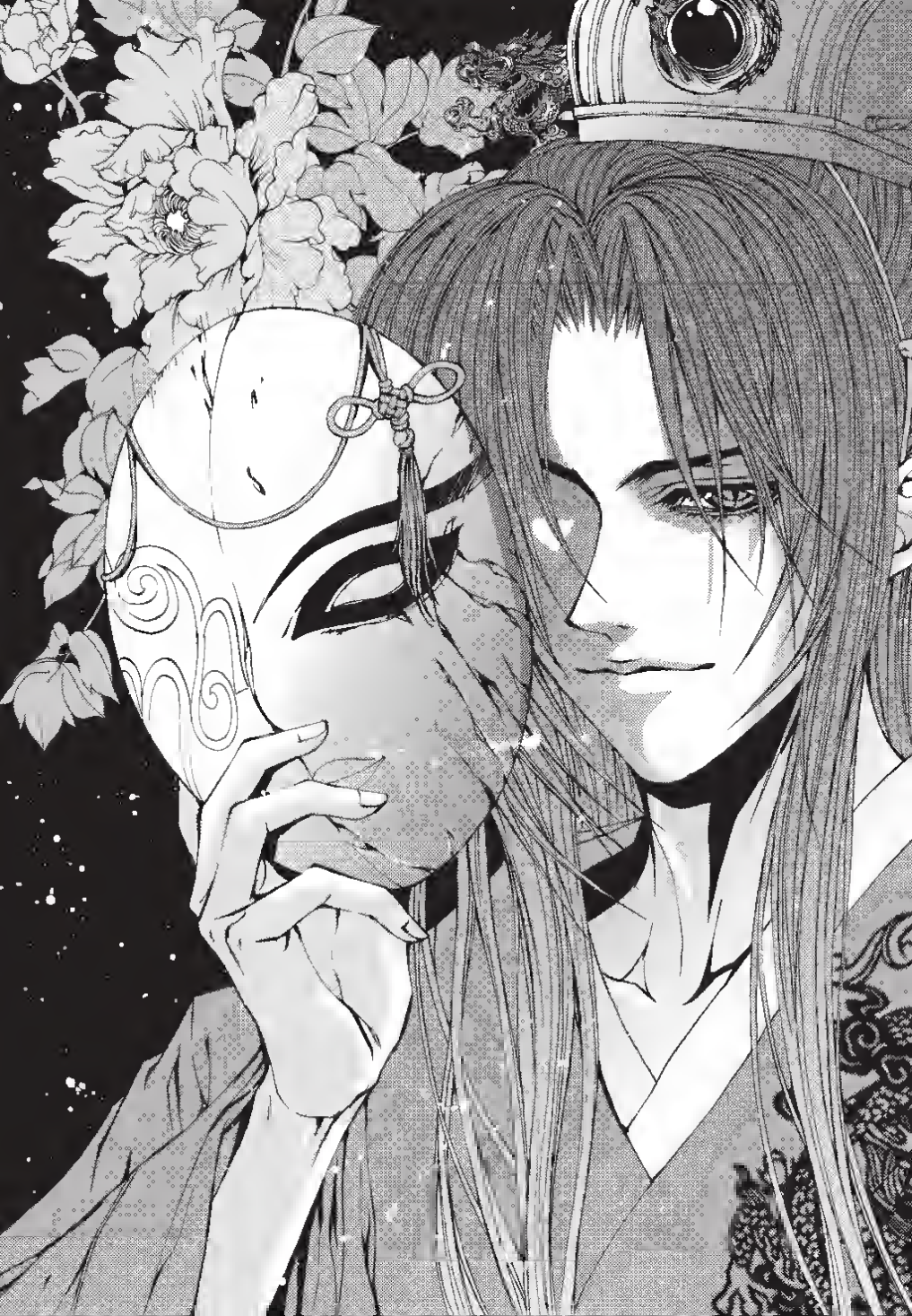
MUI!
HWOOO
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.
I'M SORRY I LEFT YOU ALONE. I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT.
WE'VE GOT TO HURRY. CHEONG-YO MOUNTAIN IS FALLING APART.
I KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND THE *BAN-DO* FRUIT, THOUGH! IT'LL BE EASY TO FIND!

whip
I'M SORRY, MUI. I WON'T EAT THE FRUIT.

Bride of the Water God

Bride of the Water God

Gaiden (Bonus Story): Recurring Dream

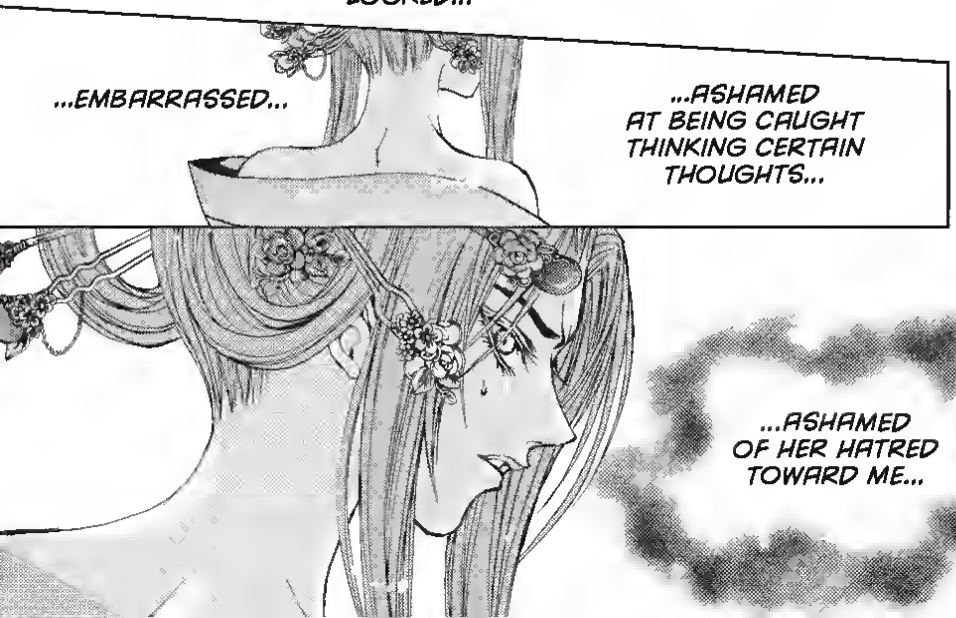


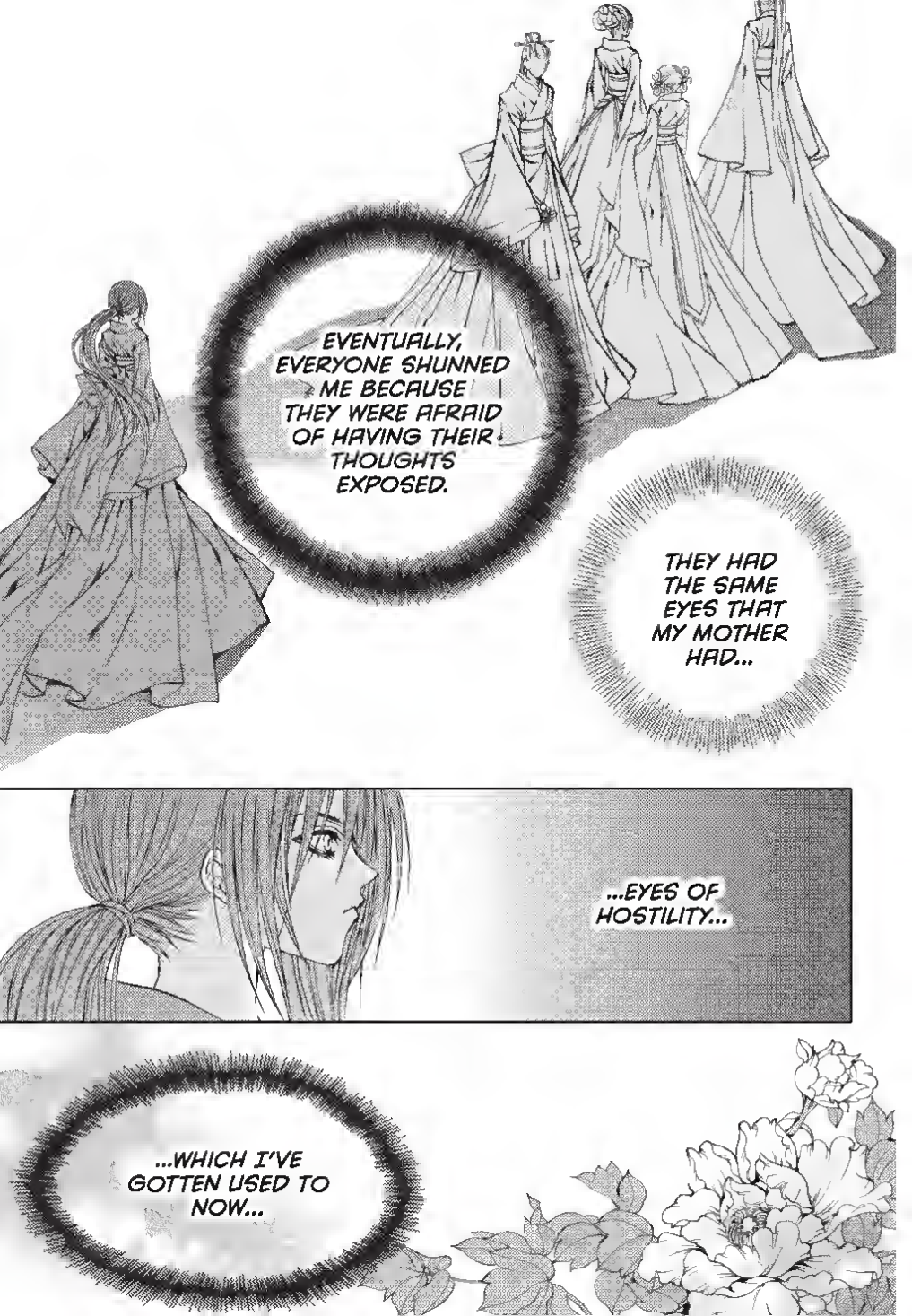
YOUR SONS ARE SU-HWA-SANG-GUK, YOHEE-NIM.
SU--WATER-- AND HWA--FIRE-- ARE HARMFUL TO EACH OTHER, SO THEY CANNOT COEXIST.
IF YOU DO NOT TAKE CARE OF THIS PROBLEM EARLY, THERE WILL BE A DISASTER LATER.

WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND?
...YOU WILL NEED TO GIVE ONE UP IN ORDER TO SAVE THE OTHER.
I'M VERY SORRY TO SAY THIS, BUT...
NONSENSE!
NEVER--EVER--BRING THAT UP AGAIN! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT EVER AGAIN!

PLEASE CONSIDER THE BIGGER PICTURE.
ENOUGH! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE!
MOTHER'S VOICE...WAS HARSH AND FIRM...
BUT AS THAT QUESTION HIT HER BRAIN...
...MY MOTHER DECIDED TO SAVE MY BROTHER...INSIDE... IN HER MIND...

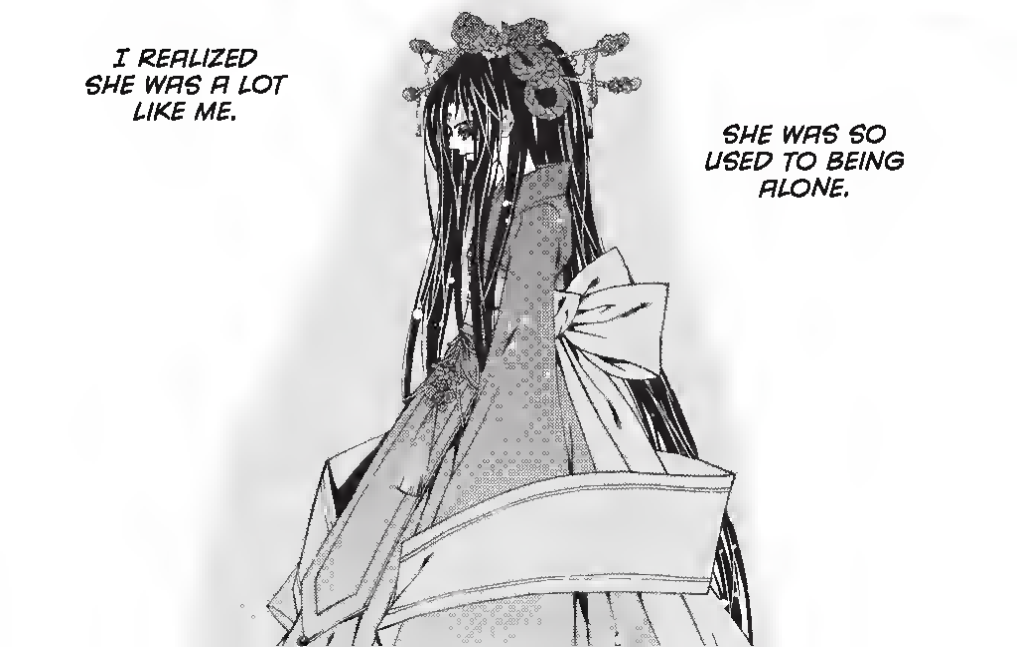
WHEN SHE FOUND OUT LATER THAT I HAD THE ABILITY TO READ OTHERS' MINDS, SHE LOOKED...


...EMBARRASSED...
...ASHAMED AT BEING CAUGHT THINKING CERTAIN THOUGHTS...
...ASHAMED OF HER HATRED TOWARD ME...


EVENTUALLY, EVERYONE SHUNNED ME BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID OF HAVING THEIR THOUGHTS EXPOSED.
THEY HAD THE SAME EYES THAT MY MOTHER HAD...
...EYES OF HOSTILITY...
...WHICH I'VE GOTTEN USED TO NOW...

LOOK! YANG-HOI-NIM HAS KILLED AGAIN.
GOSSIP
GOSSIP
EVEN THOUGH SHE IS A GODDESS OF DEATH...
...LOOK HOW CRUEL THE CHILD CAN BE...
DON'T GET TOO CLOSE, BOY. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE CAN DO.
WHY DON'T YOU EXPLAIN THINGS TO THEM?

THE TRUTH IS, IT WAS ALREADY DYING, SO YOU LESSENED ITS SUFFERING.
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
IT'S STILL DEAD ANYWAY.


I REALIZED SHE WAS A LOT LIKE ME.
SHE WAS SO USED TO BEING ALONE.

THAT WAS SURPRISING-- I WAS INTERESTED IN ANOTHER PERSON FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.
YANG-HOI, AREN'T YOU ANNOYED BY ME? YOU KNOW I CAN READ MINDS.
IF YOU CAN READ MINDS, YOU CAN READ MY MIND. SO YOU TELL *ME*-- AM I ANNOYED?
?

HEH!
THE ONLY OTHER PERSON WHO DIDN'T WEAR A MASK.
SOMEONE JUST LIKE ME... FRIGHTENED, YET HATED BY THE OTHERS.
SHE WAS JUST LIKE ME.

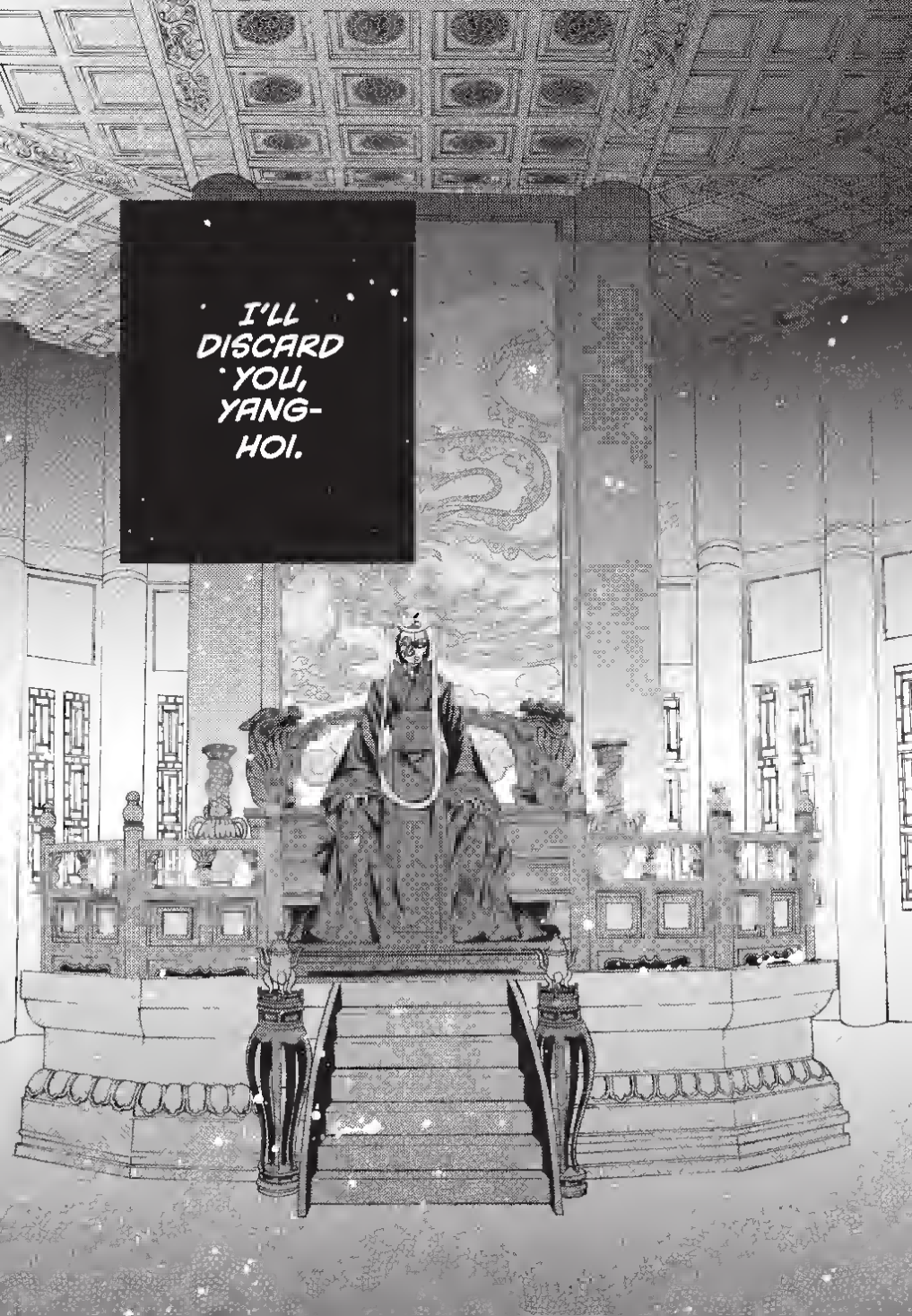
WHY DID YOU TURN DOWN MY PROPOSAL AGAIN? I REALLY MEANT IT.
STOP PLAYING AROUND. CAN'T YOU BE SERIOUS FOR ONCE? YOU'RE NOT LIKE YOUR BROTHER AT ALL.
I'M BEING SERIOUS. WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE YOU BELIEVE ME?

IF YOU ASCEND TO SIT UPON THE THRONE OF THE GODS, THEN I'LL BELIEVE YOU.
THAT'S IT? DEAL!
WHY ARE YOU SO EXCITED? I WAS JUST KIDDING. HEON-WON, SOMETIMES I DON'T THINK I REALLY KNOW YOU.
WHAT? WHO'S IT FROM?

THIS IS THE SECOND PROPOSAL FROM DONG-WANG-GONG.
EVEN AFTER I DECLINED HIM HARSHLY, HE PROPOSED AGAIN. HE'S FUNNY.
IT'S EVEN FUNNIER FOR HIM TO PROPOSE AFTER RECEIVING THAT RIDICULOUS PORTRAIT, DON'T YOU THINK, HEON-WON?
YES. IT IS...

YOU FELL IN LOVE, YANG-HOI.
I CAN TELL WITHOUT EVEN TRYING TO READ YOUR MIND.
INSTEAD OF ME... INSTEAD OF SOMEONE WHO IS LIKE YOU...
...YOU CHOSE THE ONE WHO IS THE OPPOSITE OF ME.

I'M THE ONE WHO NEVER GETS CHOSEN, NOT BY MY MOTHER... NOT BY YOU...
BECAUSE OF YOUR JOKE, THE THRONE-- WHICH I WASN'T INTERESTED IN BEFORE-- BECAME SOMETHING I WANTED...
NOW THAT I HAVE IT... IT MEANS NOTHING.
FINE... IT'S MY TURN TO DISCARD YOU.

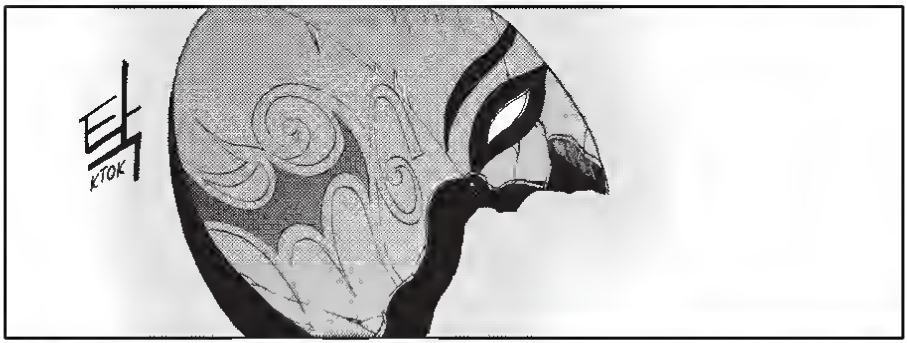

I'LL DISCARD YOU, YANG-HOI.

IF YOU WANT SOMETHING, TAKE IT.
AND IF YOU CAN'T GET IT, BREAK IT SO THAT NO ONE ELSE CAN HAVE IT.

WANTING SOME-THING...
HA! THE THING I WANT...
YOUR MAJESTY?

SEO-WANG-MO-*NIM* IS HERE TO SEE YOU.

LET HER IN.

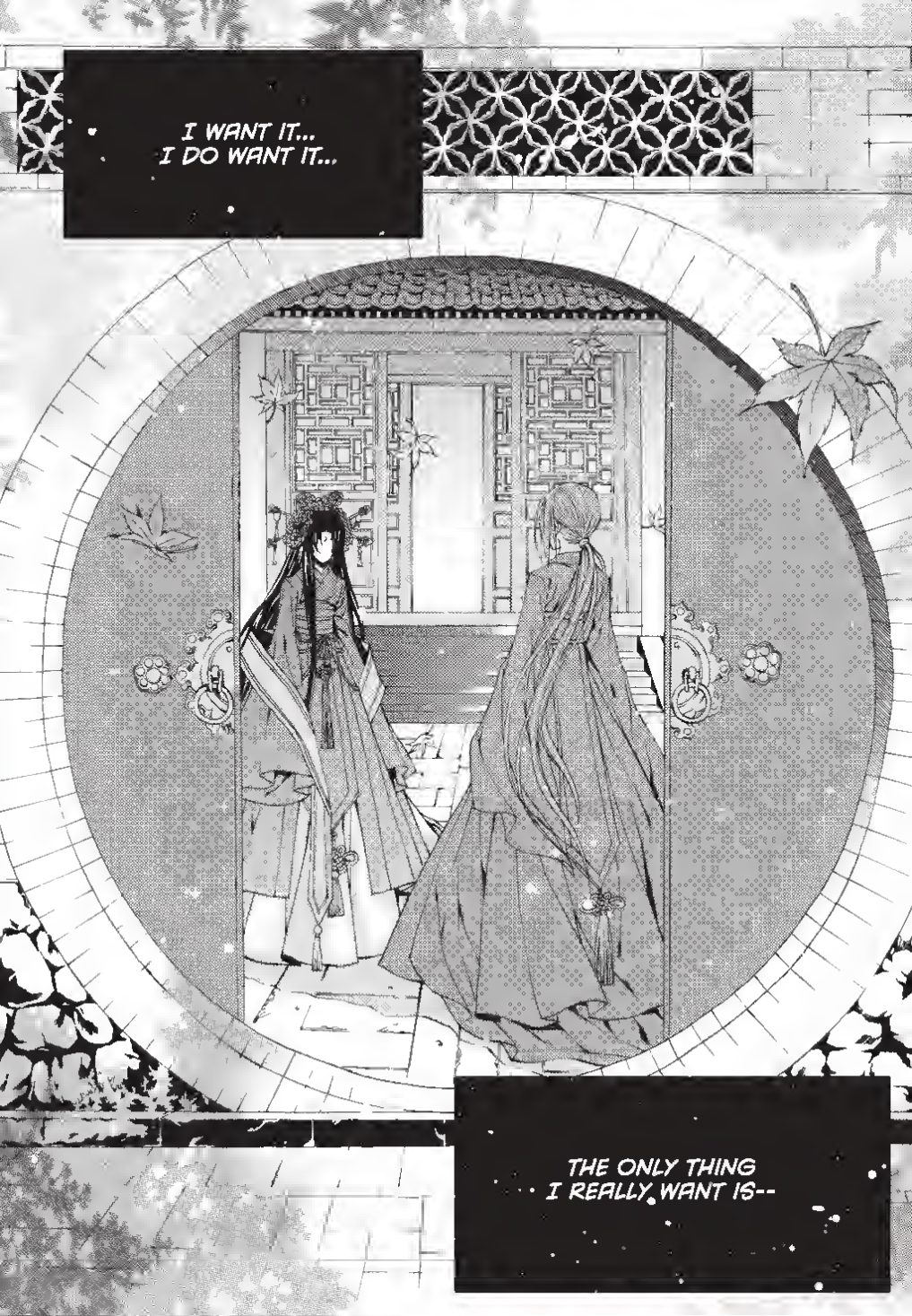

KTOK

COME ON IN, WANG-MO.
THE ONLY ONE I CAN SHOW MYSELF TO, WITHOUT A MASK.

PLEASE KILL YOUR HUSBAND.
IF YOU DO, I'LL CERTAINLY TRUST YOU.

휘청
SWOON
MOK-GONG!
I'LL GIVE YOU SOME TIME TO THINK.
PLEASE, THINK CAREFULLY AND MAKE A WISE DECISION.
KILL YOUR HUSBAND TO SAVE YOUR SON... OR KILL YOUR SON TO SAVE YOUR HUSBAND.

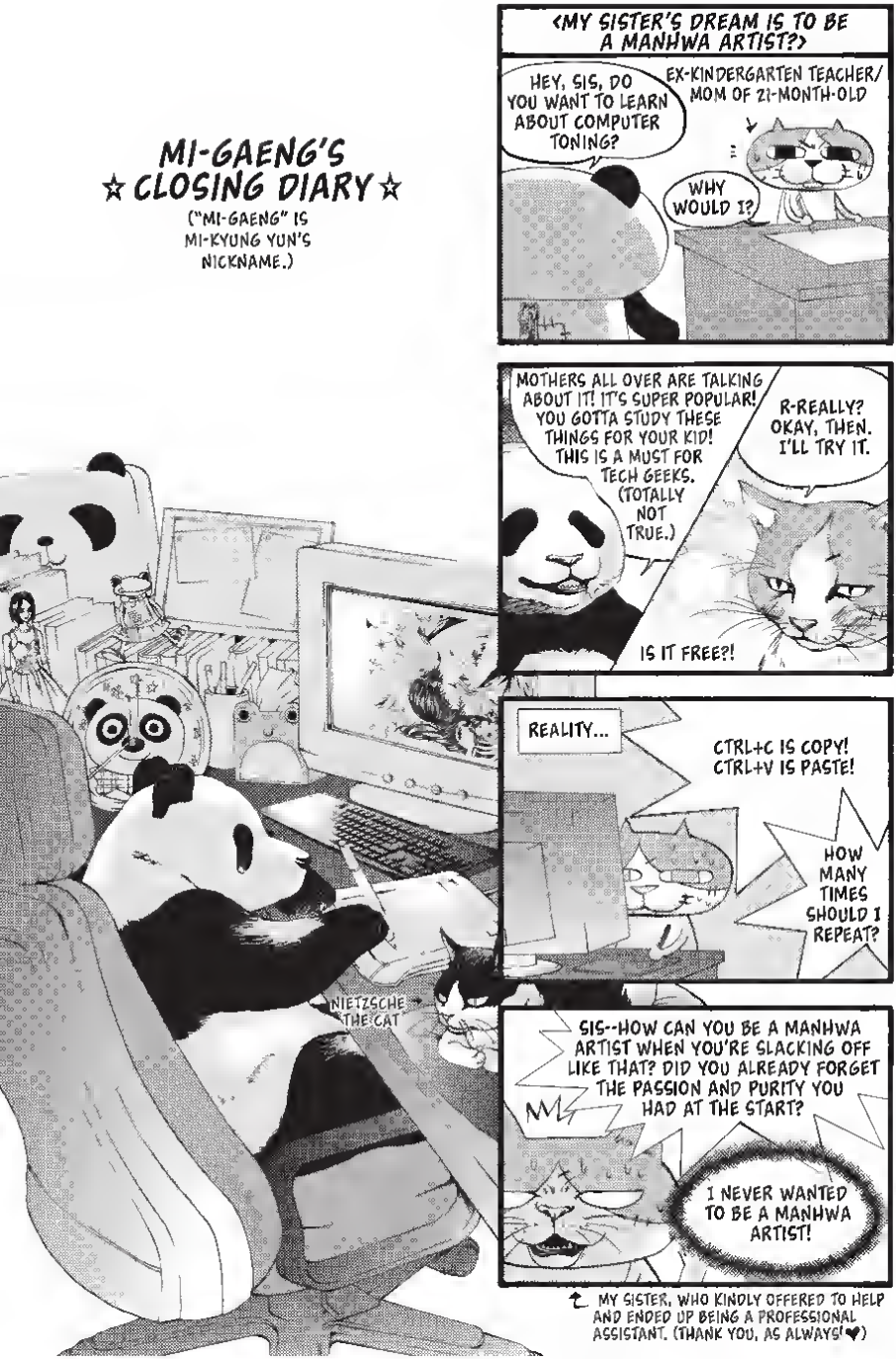
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN RUNNING THE WORLD OR DESTROYING IT...
FWSH
YOU'RE STILL THE ONLY THING I'M INTERESTED IN.
SOMETIMES, I HAVE A CERTAIN RECURRING DREAM.


I WANT IT...
I DO WANT IT...
THE ONLY THING
I REALLY WANT IS--

Bride of the Water God

MI-GAENG'S ☆CLOSING DIARY☆

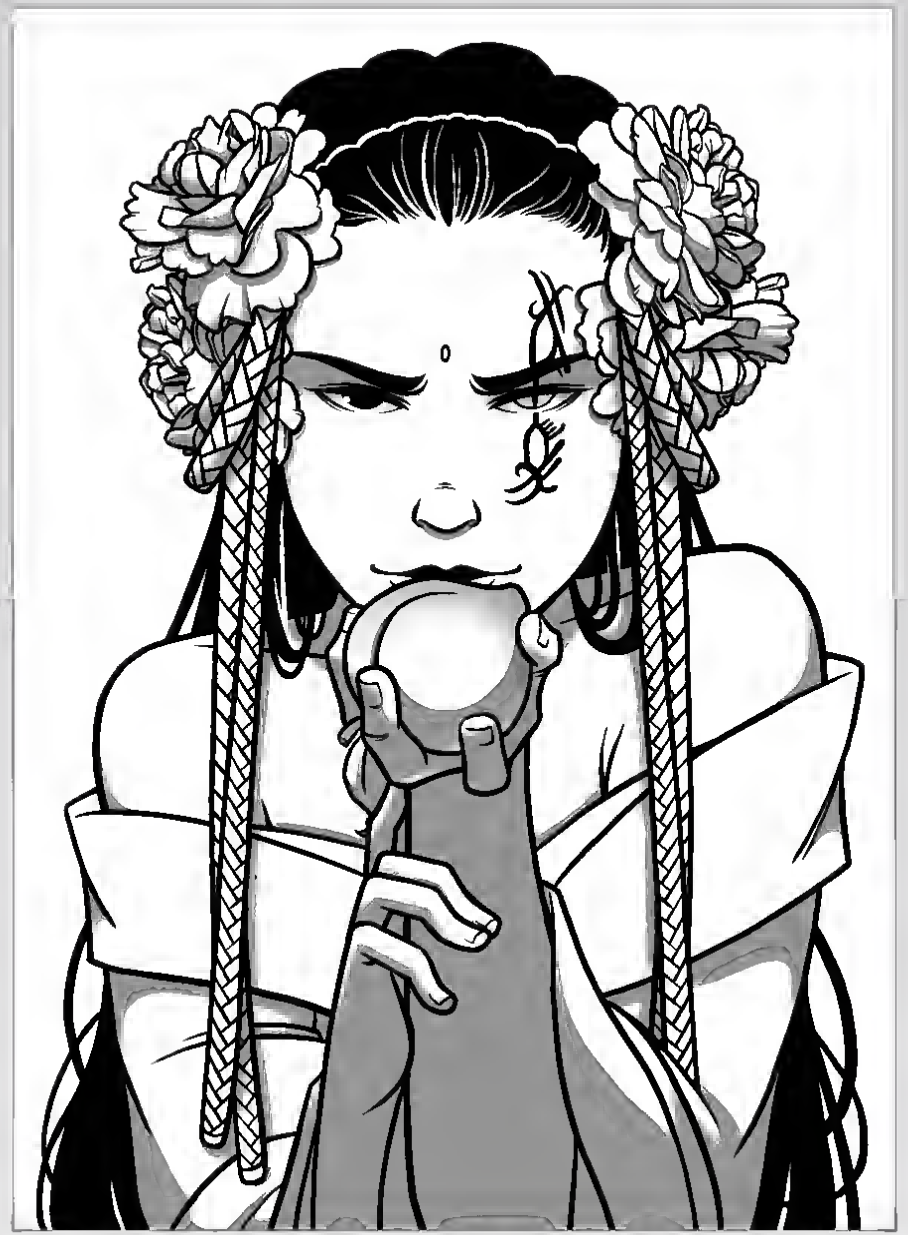
("MI-GAENG" IS MI-KYUNG YUN'S NICKNAME.)


<MY SISTER'S DREAM IS TO BE A MANHWA ARTIST?>
HEY, SIS, DO YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT COMPUTER TONING?
EX-KINDERGARTEN TEACHER/ MOM OF 21-MONTH-OLD
WHY WOULD I?
MOTHERS ALL OVER ARE TALKING ABOUT IT! IT'S SUPER POPULAR! YOU GOTTA STUDY THESE THINGS FOR YOUR KID! THIS IS A MUST FOR TECH GEEKS. (TOTALLY NOT TRUE.)
R-REALLY? OKAY, THEN. I'LL TRY IT.
IS IT FREE?!
REALITY...
CTRL+C IS COPY! CTRL+V IS PASTE!
HOW MANY TIMES SHOULD I REPEAT?
NIETZSCHE THE CAT
SIS--HOW CAN YOU BE A MANHWA ARTIST WHEN YOU'RE SLACKING OFF LIKE THAT? DID YOU ALREADY FORGET THE PASSION AND PURITY YOU HAD AT THE START?
I NEVER WANTED TO BE A MANHWA ARTIST!

↑ MY SISTER, WHO KINDLY OFFERED TO HELP AND ENDED UP BEING A PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANT. (THANK YOU, AS ALWAYS!❤)

<MY SISTER HAS CHANGED>
BEFORE I WORKED WITH MY SISTER ON MY MANHWA SERIES, SHE WAS VERY SWEET. (PAST TENSE HERE.)
HOW ARE YOU DOING? AREN'T YOU TIRED? TAKE A BREAK.
SYMPA-THETIC
I'M FINE.
I'M AFRAID YOU MIGHT CRASH.
<ADVISER>
I'VE GIVEN IT SOME THOUGHT. THE FRONT COVER TO THIS VOLUME IS A BIG PROBLEM.
CAN YOU WAKE ME UP IN TEN MINUTES?
NO, SLEEP A BIT MORE. YOUR EDITOR IS SO HARSH. THEY'LL KILL YOU!
SIGH...
WHAT'S WRONG?
THIS VOLUME WON'T SELL BECAUSE OF THE COVER.
HOWEVER... SINCE WE STARTED WORKING TOGETHER, SHE HAS CHANGED.
WAKE UP!
WORK!
WHAT? YOUR EDITOR GOT YOU A BIRTHDAY PRESENT? THE DEADLINE IS SO CLOSE. ARE THEY GIVING ME CANDY, TOO, OR THE WHIP?
YOU GOTTA PULL SOME OF THOSE CLOTHES OFF MUI! SHOW HIS SIX-PACK. THAT'S HOW YOU SELL A BOOK.
WHAT ABOUT SOAH?
YOU DON'T NEED A WOMAN THERE.
THEY NEED TO BEAT YOU WITH THAT CANDY! I COULD TEACH THEM HOW TO HANDLE SOMEONE LIKE YOU!
WHAT-?!
KABOOM
DEAR BROTHER-IN-LAW
SIS IS HELPING ME WITH A TON OF WORK
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER...WE'RE FINE...

END OF MI-GAENG'S BONUS STRIPS!



Bride of the Water God fan art by Christianne Goudreau, who is also our digital production goddess on this series! We encourage you to send in your own fan art and letters—just no original art, please. You can send letters and nonreturnable art to editor Philip Simon, c/o Dark Horse Comics, 10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222—or just email us at bride@darkhorse.com!

Art by Everett Patterson, our assistant editor on this series! Now send in *your* fan art and letters, please!

We lost two characters in this volume! I personally cared for both of them, so it's sad to see them go. There were fans who sent me complaints via email after the story was released in Korea. I cannot make up my mind on how many characters I need to kill or keep in the future, but you *will* continue to enjoy this series, won't you? Please . . . ?

—Mi-Kyung Yun

CREATOR PROFILE

Born on October 14, 1980. Majored in Animation at Mokwon University.

Received the silver medal for Seoul Media Group's "Shin-in-gong-mo-jeon" ("New Artist Debut Competition") for *Na-eu Ji-gu Bang-moon-gi* (*The Journey of My Earth Visit*) in 2003.

Received a "Shin-in-sang" ("Best New Artist") award from the Dokja-manhwa-daesang organization for *Railroad* in 2004.

Won the Korean "Manhwa of Today" award for *Bride of the Water God* in 2007.

Currently publishing *Bride of the Water God* serially in the Korean comics magazine *Wink*.

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assistant editor
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Christianne Goudreau

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David Nestelle & Adam Grano

Special thanks to Davey Estrada, Michael Gombos, Heejeong Haas, and Cara Niece

English-language version produced by DARK HORSE COMICS

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윤미경

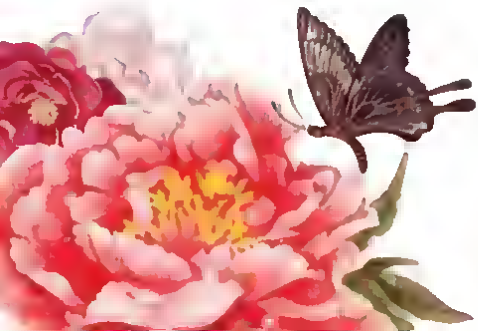
Mi-Kyung Yun

13

BRIDE of the WATER GOD

Love triangles between gods, goddesses, and humans lead to betrayal and death in this shocking new volume! The manipulative goddess Mura—trying to separate the water god Haback and his human bride Soah—forces Haback into a showdown on Cheong-Yo Mountain, where she's most powerful! As a civil war erupts in the realms of the gods, the emperor executes his own devious plan to hurt Haback and those he loves, forcing Haback's mother to make a horrible choice

Mi-Kyung Yun's engaging, complex story line and elaborate, breathtaking artwork combine to make this volume of romantic fantasy the most riveting and action packed yet!



DARK HORSE MANHWA